DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 074 112 TM 002 475

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TITLE Survey of Achievement in Reading in Year Two of Vancouver Schools, May 1 - 5, 1972.
INSTITUTION Vancouver Board of School Trustees (British Columbia). Dept. of Planning and Evaluation.
PUB DATE 8 Jun 72
NOTE 5p.; Research Report 72-09

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.65 HC-$3.29
DESCRIPTORS Achievement Tests; *Grade 2; Group Norms; Listening Skills; Reading Skills; *Reading Tests; *Standardized Tests; Tables (Data); Technical Reports; *Test Results
IDENTIFIERS Canada; *Vancouver

ABSTRACT

The Cooperative Primary Tests were administered to 4,966 pupils in grade 2 of Vancouver schools in 1972 and results were compared with those of students in grade 2 in 1969. The battery included six tests. Scores on the first, a practice test, were not recorded. The listening, word analysis, and reading tests were used for this survey. Use of the mathematics and writing skills tests was optional. Local norms and the ranges of scores corresponding to letter grades are given. The median scores on the three tests are below those obtained in 1969, but they compare favorably with the national norms supplied by the publisher. The 1972 scores are below those of 1969 at all percentile levels, most noticeably near the lower limits. Students performed best in word analysis and least well in listening skills. (KM)

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# RESEARCH REPORT

## Survey of Achievement in Reading in Year Two of Vancouver Schools, May 1 - 5, 1972

June 8, 1972

E. N. Ellis

Research Report 72-09

Department of Planning and Evaluation
Board of School Trustees
1595 West 10th Avenue
Vancouver 9, B. C.

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# SURVEY OF ACHIEVEMENT IN READING IN YEAR TWO OF VANCOUVER SCHOOLS, MAY 1 - 5, 1972.

## Summary

This report includes:

1. a summary of results on the Cooperative Primary Tests (Form 23B),
2. a comparison of the results with those of 1969,
3. tables of local norms, and
4. discussion of the findings.

In general, the pupils at the Year 2 level performed somewhat less well than did the pupils of 1969, but their scores compared favourably with national norms.

## Introduction

The Cooperative Primary Tests (Form 23B) were administered to 4,966 pupils in Year 2 of Vancouver schools during the week, May 1 - 5, 1972. The same tests had been given to all pupils in Grade 2 early in June, 1969.

The battery included six tests. The first, a "Pilot Test", was designed to give pupils practice with the format and the kinds of questions and responses they would encounter in the regular tests. The score on the "Pilot Test" was not recorded. The use of the "Mathematics" and "Writing Skills" test was optional. Only the "Listening", "Word Analysis" and "Reading" tests were required for this survey.

## Summary of Results

The principal features of the survey appear in Table I.

TABLE I: SUMMARY OF RESULTS--COOPERATIVE PRIMARY TESTS (FORM 23B) YEAR TWO, VANCOUVER SCHOOLS, MAY 1 - 5, 1972.

(Note: The corresponding results for June, 1969, appear in parentheses.)

| | "Listening" | "Word Analysis" | "Reading" |
|---|---|---|---|
| No. of Schools | 72 ( 67 ) | 72 ( 67 ) | 72 ( 67) |
| No. of Pupils | 4,968 (5,541 ) | 4,966 (5,523 ) | 4,973 ( 5,522) |
| Possible Score | 50 ( 50 ) | 60 ( 60 ) | 50 ( 50) |
| Median Score | 31.4 ( 32.7 ) | 52.2 ( 53.7 ) | 31.9 ( 34.6 ) |
| Median as a Percentage | 62.8% ( 65.4 ) | 86.9% ( 89.5 ) | 63.9% ( 69.2 ) |
| Standing (National norms) | 47%ile (53%ile) | 64%ile (70%ile) | 59%ile (66%ile) |
| No. of Perfect Scores | 11 ( 22 ) | 102 ( 143 ) | 21 ( 27 ) |
| No. of Zero Scores | 3 ( 0 ) | 3 ( 0 ) | 3 ( 0) |

Local Norms

Percentile norms are presented in Table II and the ranges of scores corresponding to letter grades in Table III.

TABLE II: SCORES ON THE COOPERATIVE PRIMARY TESTS (FORM 23B) CORRESPONDING TO SELECTED PERCENTILE LEVELS, YEAR TWO, VANCOUVER SCHOOLS, MAY 1 - 5, 1972.

| Percentile | "Listening" (N 4,968) (possible 50) | "Word Analysis" (N=4,966) (possible 60) | "Reading" (N=4,973) (possible 50) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 99 | 44.7 | 60 | 48.1 |
| 95 | 42.1 | 59.3 | 44.7 |
| 90 | 40.0 | 58.2 | 42.7 |
| 85 | 38.3 | 57.2 | 41.0 |
| 80 | 37.1 | 56.6 | 39.6 |
| 75 | 36.0 | 55.9 | 38.2 |
| 70 | 35.0 | 55.2 | 36.9 |
| 65 | 34.1 | 54.6 | 35.7 |
| 60 | 33.2 | 53.8 | 34.4 |
| 55 | 32.3 | 53.0 | 33.1 |
| 50 | 31.4 | 52.2 | 31.9 |
| 45 | 30.5 | 51.3 | 30.8 |
| 40 | 29.5 | 50.2 | 29.6 |
| 35 | 28.5 | 49.1 | 28.3 |
| 30 | 27.5 | 47.8 | 27.1 |
| 25 | 26.4 | 46.3 | 25.7 |
| 20 | 25.0 | 44.5 | 24.3 |
| 15 | 23.7 | 42.3 | 22.5 |
| 10 | 21.8 | 39.2 | 20.3 |
| 05 | 19.1 | 34.4 | 17.1 |
| 01 | 14.9 | 25.5 | 10.2 |

TABLE III: RANGES OF SCORES CORRESPONDING TO LETTER GRADES, COOPERATIVE PRIMARY TESTS, (FORM 23B), YEAR TWO, VANCOUVER SCHOOLS, MAY 1 - 5, 1972.

| Letter Grade | Ranges of Scores | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | "Listening" | "Word Analysis" | "Reading" |
| A | 43-50 | 60 | 45-50 |
| B | 36-42 | 56-59 | 39-44 |
| C+ | 34-35 | 54-55 | 35-38 |
| C | 30-33 | 51-53 | 30-34 |
| C- | 27-29 | 47-50 | 26-29 |
| D | 20-26 | 35-46 | 18-25 |
| E | 0-19 | 0-34 | 0-17 |

Discussion

While the median scores on the three subtests are below those obtained by Vancouver pupils three years earlier, they compare favourably with the national norms supplied by the publisher. (It should be noted that the tests were given one month earlier in 1972 than in 1969.)

The subtest scores in 1972 are lower than those of 1969 at all percentile levels, but most noticeably near the lower limits.

As in the previous survey, Vancouver pupils do their best work in "Word Analysis" and they perform least well on the test of "Listening Skills". The former finding supports the contention that the strong phonics component of our primary reading program produces superior word-attack skills and improved comprehension.